



**LCMC**  
**Pastor Ethan Fearing**

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# March 2024 Newsletter



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## **From the Pastor....**

To you, the LORD's beloved people of American Lutheran Church,

USHERING HAS CHANGED. No, we're not changing the way we usher at American Lutheran Church (ALC). Our goal has always been to welcome people to worship, to collect offerings made to the LORD, and to answer questions and connect visitors to our ministry staff. Really, the only thing that will be changing in 2024 is how we organize our ushers. In the past, we've had a Head Usher who called around, hoping to schedule volunteers for every Sunday of the year. Recent years has shown limited success with this recruitment method, so we're trying something new!

Late last year, our church council decided to ask the November-December service group leaders to call the volunteers assigned to their team to find ushers. This showed an increase in willing participants, and so ALC decided to try this for a whole year. Every two months, the leaders of that service group will be calling their members, so expect a phone call sometime, and please consider helping out. And if you would like to serve in a month not assigned to your service group, give those leaders a call. ALC service books are available in the Narthex Gathering Area and from Lori in the ALC office. Thanks in advance!

Also, we thought we would share a reminder of how ushering works. This duties list is also posted on the back wall of the sanctuary:

### **USHERING DUTIES**

Thank you for your willingness to serve as an usher! Ushering is in itself an act of worship, an assistance that promotes meaningful worship engagements between the people and God. As an usher, you express the Church's welcome tending to the needs and comforts of your fellow worshippers.

# From the Pastor... (Continued)

## BEFORE THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Plan to arrive about 30 minutes before the beginning of the worship service. During this time, ensure that the following tasks are accomplished:

- 1) The Sanctuary and Narthex lights are turned on.
- 2) Bulletins are available.
- 3) Hymn numbers are posted on the board at the front.
- 4) The Sanctuary is clean.
- 5) Reserved areas are marked when reserved.
- 6) Ventilation is adequate. NOTE: Heat is controlled by the custodian. Please do not adjust.
- 7) Guest registers and pens are available in the Narthex gathering area.
- 8) If the acolyte is not present, turn on and light the altar candles.
- 9) Assist the pastor or anyone involved in the worship service if asked.
- 10) When a baptism is listed in the bulletin, please ensure the baptismal font is centered at the front of the Sanctuary between the lectern and pulpit.

## AS WORSHIPERS ARRIVE

Extend a friendly welcome to each person as you hand them a bulletin. Offer assistance in seating when needed. If all the pews are full, for example, extra chairs can be brought from the Fellowship Hall. Additionally, the Fellowship Hall can be used as an overflow space, but please notify the sound technicians if that is necessary.

Be especially alert for visitors. As you extend a special welcome, ask them to sign one of the guest registers in the Narthex gathering area. And most importantly, please introduce any newcomer to the people and to the pastor.

## DURING WORSHIP SERVICES

Be aware of the worshipers' needs and comfort throughout the worship time. Continue to monitor the ventilation, watch for signs of distress in the congregation, and direct newcomers to the overflow spaces, nursery, and restroom.

Count the worshipers, writing the total on the sheet on the back wall of the Sanctuary.

**OFFERING:** Gather four ushers to pass the offering plates from both ends of each pew. Be sure to include the side-chapel and overflow areas if they are being used. When completed, signal the organist using the "Ushers Call" button on the back wall of the Sanctuary. Two ushers should then bring the offering forward so the pastor may place it on the altar.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** Position two ushers at the front of the Sanctuary's center aisle to control worshipers' traffic to the altar area. Allow 12-14 people to the altar for each setting. Assist the elderly and handicapped as needed.

Ushers should commune with the last group of worshippers. They should then notify the pastor if anyone has not come forward to be served.

O LORD, a single day in your courts is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a gatekeeper in the house of my God than live the good life in the homes of the wicked.

– Psalm 84:10

By grace, through faith, in Christ,  
Pastor Ethan Fearing  
320-874-0104

# NOT WHAT WE WERE.

## LENT 2024

🕒 5:30 p.m. MEAL ▶ 6:15 p.m. MUSIC & MESSAGE

- |   |                        |   |                                     |
|---|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 🕒 | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 | ASH WEDNESDAY with Alyssa                             | Message: "My Name is Dirt"          |
| 🕒 | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 | Kevin & Mike  | Message: "Captain Tinfoil"          |
| 🕒 | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | Sarah Circle Gospel Sing-Along                        | Message: "The Brave and the Craven" |
| 🕒 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6     | The WatchMan  | Message: "Bitter and Ruthless"      |
| 🕒 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13    | Chaplain Dave   | Message: "A Lame Pool Party"        |
| 🕒 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20    | Lori & Sue  | Message: "Who's Your Neighbor?"     |
|   | SUNDAY, MARCH 24       | 9:00 a.m. PALM SUNDAY Worship Service                 |                                     |
| 🕒 | THURSDAY, MARCH 28     | MAUNDY THURSDAY Passover Seder Meal                   |                                     |
| ▶ | FRIDAY, MARCH 29       | GOOD FRIDAY Worship Service                           | Message: "Jesus B."                 |
|   | SUNDAY, MARCH 31       | 7:00 a.m. EASTER Sunrise Worship Service              |                                     |
|   | SUNDAY, MARCH 31       | 9:00 a.m. EASTER Resurrection Morning Worship Service |                                     |

# Youth & Family

**Join Us For:  
The First-Ever High School  
(9th-12th) Retreat At Mount  
Carmel For Us And For Camp!**

**March 8th-10th**

**2-night stay, 5 meals,  
Programming, and tons of  
activities**

**\$64 per student**

**\*(We get the Proclaimer Congregation discount 20%)**



# Sunday Nights at the Movies

**March 3: "Jesus Revolution" (PG-13)**

**March 17: "The Blind" (PG-13)**

**PLEASE mark your calendars** for

'Sunday Nights at the Movies'!

ALC invites our congregation and the community to attend FREE movies, showing at 6:30pm (various topics/titles, Christian themes).

This is your chance to invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. to join you to learn more about Jesus/Christian life (or hear for the first time) via movies.

\*Light refreshments will be served.

For young families: \*NURSERY will be provided.

**\*INVITE others to join you PLEASE!\***

American Lutheran Church  
welcomes everyone for

# SUNDAY NIGHTS AT THE MOVIES

6:30  
PM

215 9th Street SE, Long Prairie, MN 56347

Entry is free! Nursery care and snacks will be provided.

January 7	February 4	March 3	April 14
January 21	February 18	March 17	April 28

# ALCW



## ***ALCW NEW 2 U sale 2024***

Planned for May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Accepting DONATIONS April 25<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup>. (Usual restrictions: NO: books, large appliances, no electronics, TVs, etc.)

[sorting and other prep will be ongoing during this time frame]

SET UP: May 2 through May 9. (Displays, pricing, sit down jobs)

Serving with time, gifts and talents to help support this project is greatly appreciated!

Fun, food, fellowship and blessings to be had!

Questions/thoughts:

Deb @ 732-4184 or Julie @ 320 533 1070

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!**

# Mission Focus

# STRETCH YOUR DONATION

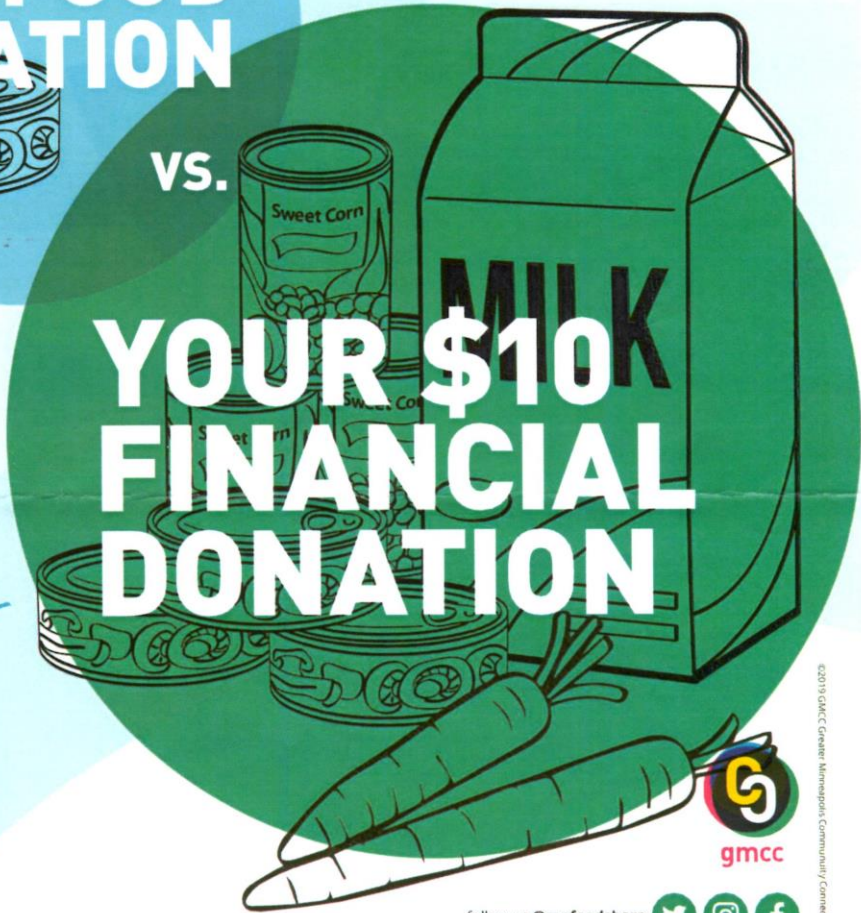
**Food shelves** can stretch cash donations further than donations of food because of their access to discount products and programs. Help us feed more Minnesota families by donating cash to your local food shelf today.

**YOUR \$10 FOOD DONATION**



vs.

**YOUR \$10 FINANCIAL DONATION**



follow us @mnfoodshare



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# Service Group 2 – Mar - Apr

## **Service Group Responsibilities:**

- Serve for funerals on a rotating basis every 7<sup>th</sup> Funeral.
- Serve for special events occurring during the two-month period.
- Call for Ushers during the two-month period.

**Group 2 Leaders:**                    **Teresa Pachan**  
    **Marsha Paulson**

## **Group 2 Members:**

Barthel, Jene & Laurie  
Eckel, Larry & Jodi  
Fuchs, Cindy  
Guthrie, Kathy  
Katterhagen, Brian & Janet  
Katterhagen, Cassie  
Kortuem, Peggy  
Leagjeld, Dianne  
Lubbers, Ryan & Jillene  
Meyer, Betty  
Miller, Celeste  
Miller, Dan & Jan  
Pachan, Mark  
Paulson, Justen  
Petrie, Blaine & Bernice  
Schrader, Frank & JoAnn  
Steinert, Dick & Emily  
Thompson, Wanda  
Westerberg, Sandy  
Zimmerman, Myke & Amy



# March

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY








3<sup>rd</sup> Cindy Fuchs  
3<sup>rd</sup> Allison Winge  
4<sup>th</sup> Faye Arntson  
5<sup>th</sup> Russ Jacobsen  
5<sup>th</sup> Al Priebe  
7<sup>th</sup> Jess Reining  
9<sup>th</sup> Bill Blair  
9<sup>th</sup> Kim Kuhlman  
9<sup>th</sup> Janie Thole  
10<sup>th</sup> Lee Fearing  
10<sup>th</sup> William Young  
11<sup>th</sup> Tammie Chapin  
11<sup>th</sup> Jen Meagher  
12<sup>th</sup> Averie Cavallero  
12<sup>th</sup> Al Tirk  
13<sup>th</sup> Bryon Karjala  
13<sup>th</sup> Nathan Ruda  
14<sup>th</sup> Mike Winge  
15<sup>th</sup> Beth Arenson  
15<sup>th</sup> Sherri Evenson  
17<sup>th</sup> Scott Marcyes  
20<sup>th</sup> Mark Berscheit  
20<sup>th</sup> Sandy Flan  
20<sup>th</sup> Pat Schultz  
21<sup>st</sup> Karl Arenson  
22<sup>nd</sup> Linda Guse  
22<sup>nd</sup> Madison Parker  
22<sup>nd</sup> Makenzie Parker  
22<sup>nd</sup> Tami Priebe  
23<sup>rd</sup> Thomas Haugen  
24<sup>th</sup> Lexi Berscheit  
24<sup>th</sup> JoAnn Schrader  
25<sup>th</sup> Jace Browen  
26<sup>th</sup> Houston Berscheit  
26<sup>th</sup> Gary Martin  
28<sup>th</sup> Jillene Lubbers  
30<sup>th</sup> Steve Hinrichs  
30<sup>th</sup> Carlie Eichens  
31<sup>st</sup> Bob Chapin

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

17<sup>th</sup> Dale & Sue Ellingson  
18<sup>th</sup> Mark & Mary Hasse



# ALC CALENDAR MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 8:15am Choir Practice 9:00am <b>Worship Service with Communion</b> 10:15am Sunday School 6:30pm Sunday Nights at the Movies "Jesus Revolution" (PG-13) 	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Trustee Meeting	<b>5</b> 8:15am Staff Meeting	<b>6</b> 5:30pm <b>Family Night Supper</b> 6:00pm Quest Kids 6:15pm <b>Lenten Worship Service with music by The Watchman and Message "Bitter and Ruthless"</b> 7:15pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Deacon Meeting 	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> High School Mount Carmel Retreat	<b>9</b> High School Mount Carmel Retreat
<b>10</b> High School Mount Carmel Retreat 9:00am <b>Worship Service</b> 10:15am Sunday School	<b>11</b> 6:00pm Youth & Family Committee Meeting	<b>12</b> 8:15am Staff Meeting	<b>13</b> 9:30am Esther Circle 5:30pm <b>Family Night Supper</b> 6:00pm Quest Kids 6:15pm <b>Lenten Worship Music with music by Chaplain Dave Greaver and Message "A Lame Pool Party"</b> 7:15pm Choir Practice 8:00pm Church Council Meeting 	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:15am Choir Practice 9:00am <b>Worship Service with Communion</b> 10:15am Sunday School 11:30am Missions Committee Meeting 6:30pm Sunday Nights at the Movies "The Blind" (PG-13) 	<b>18</b> 6:15pm Sarah Circle Singing at Meadow Place 7:00pm Sarah Circle Bible Study	<b>19</b> 8:15am Staff Meeting	<b>20</b> 11:00am Newsletter Articles Due 5:30pm <b>Family Night Supper</b> 6:00pm Quest Kids 6:15pm <b>Lenten Worship Service with music by Lori &amp; Sue and Message "Who's Your Neighbor"</b> 7:15pm Choir Practice 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00am <b>Palm Sunday Worship Service</b> 10:15am Pancake Breakfast Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser 10:15am Sunday School 	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Staff Meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00pm Quest Kids 6:30pm Choir Practice	<b>28</b> 9:00am Audio-Visual Committee Meeting 5:30pm <b>Passover Seder Meal</b>	<b>29</b> 5:30pm Choir Practice 6:15pm <b>Good Friday Worship Service</b> 	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 6:30am Choir Practice 7:00am <b>Easter Sunrise Worship Service with Communion</b> 9:00am <b>Easter Morning Worship Service with Communion</b> 10:00am Prayer at Altar after Service 